



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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Four districts share \$335,000 in continuous improvement grants

Antigo, Merrill, Stevens Point, and Wisconsin Rapids school districts receive funding under Title I

MADISON—Four central Wisconsin school districts will receive \$335,000 in grants to help them meet their goals for improving student achievement.

“The efforts of these districts to partner with their communities to improve student achievement serve as models for the rest of the state,” said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. “These grants will help public schools in Antigo, Merrill, Stevens Point, and Wisconsin Rapids lift achievement for all students and close the gap between students of color, economically disadvantaged students and their peers.”

Each of the four districts will receive a school improvement grant of \$50,000. Districts may use the funds for a number of activities, which include increasing student tutoring; expanding summer school programming; providing professional staff development; purchasing supplemental instructional materials; developing early intervention programs with students, teachers, parents, and the community; and strengthening student literacy and numeracy through community and parent involvement.

Merrill, Stevens Point, and Wisconsin Rapids are each receiving \$30,000 early literacy grants, and Antigo is receiving \$25,000 for early literacy activities.

Continuous Improvement Grants

Antigo School District — \$95,000	
District School Improvement Grant	\$50,000
Early Literacy Grant	\$25,000
REACH Grant	\$20,000
Merrill School District — \$80,000	
District School Improvement Grant	\$50,000
Early Literacy Grant	\$30,000
Stevens Point Area School District — \$80,000	
District School Improvement Grant	\$50,000
Early Literacy Grant	\$30,000
Wisconsin Rapids School District — \$80,000	
District School Improvement Grant	\$50,000
Early Literacy Grant	\$30,000

(more)

“Early learning activities are vital in our efforts to close the achievement gap because they lay the foundation for reading and all other learning,” Burmaster said.

Early literacy grants can be used to create partnerships to encourage early literacy through physical activity and nutrition lessons during school or in after-school settings, expand early literacy opportunities and teacher competencies by using the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (WMELS) to guide curriculum and improve program quality; strengthen partnerships among schools and public libraries; or enhance existing Even Start Family Literacy programs.

Additionally, Antigo will receive a \$20,000 district incentive grant for the Responsive Education for All Children (REACH) Initiative. REACH helps schools make systemic improvements that reduce barriers to learning and enable all students, including those with disabilities, to experience academic success. Antigo will be among districts implementing a coordinated, multi-tiered model of evidence-based instructional options, universal screening, and ongoing progress monitoring.

The grants are funded from the federal Title I Program, part of the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 2001, also known as the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. Districts received funding based on school progress on the four annual measurable objectives used to determine adequate yearly progress under Wisconsin’s plan to meet accountability requirements of NCLB. The objectives are test participation, graduation and attendance criteria, and achievement levels in reading and mathematics.

“It is our shared value to educate all children to their highest level of achievement. Investing in the continuous improvement efforts of these districts is an important part of the future social and economic health of our entire state,” Burmaster said.

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NOTE: This news release is available electronically at < http://www.dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2006_107.pdf >.